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**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

MEDIA RELEASE

**Vermont Public Utility Commission Orders Investigation
into the Depth of the Recently Completed Vermont Gas Pipeline**

Montpelier, VT, July 14, 2017 - Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission opened an investigation into whether Vermont Gas Systems (“VGS”) violated its 2013 permit by burying its pipeline at a depth of less than 4 feet in 18 locations in New Haven, Vermont. The Company’s Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”), issued on December 23, 2013, authorized the construction of the pipeline from Chittenden County to Addison County and required that the pipeline be buried at least 4 feet deep within electric transmission corridors for safety reasons.

On June 2, 2017, VGS filed notice with the Commission that during pipeline construction the Company had buried the pipeline at a depth between 3 and 4 feet at approximately 18 locations within the Vermont Transco LLC/Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (“VELCO”) right-of-way in New Haven. The 2013 Final Order and CPG required that the pipeline be buried at a depth of 4 feet in the VELCO right-of-way. VGS requested that the Commission consider this “minor change in construction technique” to be a non-substantial change.

This investigation will determine whether VGS’s deviation from the approved project plan is material or a substantial change to that plan and, if so, whether it is appropriate to order any remedial action, impose a penalty, or take any other steps authorized by law. The Commission will also require VGS to submit evidence by August 11 to certify that the remainder of the pipeline has been buried at the required depth, and to conduct a root-cause analysis of the reasons for this and other construction-related deviations from the 2013 Final Order. The Commission will schedule a public hearing after it receives this information.

The text of the Public Utility Commission’s decision and more information about Case No. 17-3550-INV are available via the Commission’s electronic filing and case management system, ePUC, or at the following website: epuc.vermont.gov. The Company’s certification information and details about the public hearing will also be available on this website.

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For immediate release. For more information, contact Mike Tousley, Staff Attorney, (802) 828-2358, michael.tousley@vermont.gov